



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK
August 7-13, 2005

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS farmers markets are important, nationwide outlets for agricultural producers to increase marketing opportunities;

WHEREAS over 3,700 farmers markets across the country offer consumers farm-fresh, affordable, convenient, and healthy products such as: fruits, vegetables, cheeses, herbs, fish, flowers, baked goods, meat, and much more;

WHEREAS farmers markets serve as integral links between urban, suburban, and rural communities, affording farmers and their consumers the opportunity to interact;

WHEREAS the popularity of farmers markets continues to rise, as more and more consumers discover the joys of shopping for unique ingredients sold direct from the farm, and the pleasure of buying familiar products in their freshest possible state;

WHEREAS farmers markets support local anti-hunger initiatives, through which farmers donate unsold food and food products to programs that feed the needy;

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture strongly supports and promotes the development and operation of farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer marketing activities for agricultural producers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of August 7-13, 2005, National Farmers Market Week, to further the expansion and awareness of farmers markets and the contributions farmers make to daily life in America. I encourage all people of the United States to celebrate the benefits of farmers markets and the bountiful production of our Nation's farmers who, while providing for our needs, are among the best stewards of our land.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 10th day of May 2005, the two-hundred twenty-ninth year of Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Johanns", is positioned above the printed name and title.

MIKE JOHANNS
Secretary